

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF KANSAS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and the  
KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
ENVIRONMENT, and Roderick L. Bremby as  
Secretary of the KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT,

Plaintiffs,

v.

CYPRUS AMAX MINERALS COMPANY

Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO:

JOINT COMPLAINT

The United States of America, by authority of the Attorney General through his undersigned attorneys, and at the request and on behalf of the United States Department of the Interior (DOI), in its capacity as natural resource trustee, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), and Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary of KDHE, in his capacity as Trustee for state natural resources in Kansas, allege as follows:

NATURE OF ACTION

1. This is a civil claim for natural resource damages brought pursuant to Section 311 of the Clean Water Act ("CWA"), 33 U.S.C. § 1321, and Kansas state law for damages for injury to, destruction of, or loss of natural resources in the Cherokee County Superfund Site resulting from the discharge of hazardous substances at and from certain properties owned and/or operated by Cyprus Amax Minerals Company ("Defendant") or its predecessors in interest in Cherokee County, Kansas.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. This court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this claim pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1345, 1362 and 2201 and 33 U.S.C. §§ 1321(e)(2) and (n).

3. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 33 U.S.C. § 2717(b); and 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b).

## PARTIES

4. Defendant Cyprus Amax Minerals Company is a corporation organized under the laws of Delaware with its principal place of business located in Phoenix, Arizona.

5. Plaintiff the United States of America ("United States") is a trustee for natural resources damaged or destroyed in the Cherokee County Superfund Site as a result of the discharges of hazardous substances from properties owned and operated by the Defendant and/or its predecessors in interest pursuant to federal statutes which include, but are not limited to, Section 311(f)(5) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(f)(5). *See* Exec. Order No. 12,580, as amended by Exec. Order No. 12,077, 61 Fed. Reg. 45871 (Aug. 28, 1996); 40 C.F.R. § 300.600(b)(2).

6. Plaintiffs KDHE and the Secretary of KDHE (the "State") are state trustees for natural resources injured, destroyed or lost in the Cherokee County Superfund Site as a result of discharges of hazardous substances from properties owned and operated by the Defendant in Kansas, pursuant to statutes, which include, but are not limited to, Section 311(f)(5) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(f)(5), 40 C.F.R. § 300.605, and K.S.A. 61 - 171u.

## GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

7. The Cherokee County Superfund Site ("Site") was added by the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") to the National Priorities List on September 8, 1983, 48 Fed. Reg. 40658. The Site consists of 115 square miles in the southeast corner of the State of Kansas, bordering the States of Missouri and Oklahoma. It includes portions of the Spring River, Empire Lake and various tributaries thereto.

8. Defendant and/or its predecessors in interest own and/or operate, or owned and/or operated, certain mining claims, mines and real property located in the (1) Baxter Springs Operable Unit No. 3 of the Site and (2) the Crestline Subsite of Operable Unit 6 of the Site.. (Hereinafter collectively referred to as "Defendant's Properties").

9. There have been and continue to be discharges of hazardous substances from Defendant's Properties into the environment in the Cherokee County Superfund Site including into the Spring River and various tributaries thereto. These hazardous substances include but are not limited to lead, cadmium, arsenic, mercury and zinc.

10. These releases and discharges of hazardous substances from Defendant's Properties have resulted in elevated levels of lead, cadmium, arsenic, mercury and zinc in the soils, groundwater and surface water of the Site.

11. Natural resources at the Site have been damaged or destroyed or lost as a result of the discharges of hazardous substances from the Defendant's Properties. These natural resources included but are not limited to ground water, surface water, sediments, terrestrial resources, resident and migratory birds, fish, macroinvertebrates, biota and such other resources belonging to, managed by, held in trust by, appertaining to, or otherwise controlled by the United States or the State.

#### RELEVANT LEGAL AUTHORITIES

12. Section 311(f)(4) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(f)(4), provides that the owner or operator of any facility from which oil or a hazardous substances has been discharged is liable for any costs or expenses incurred by the United States or State "in the restoration or replacement of natural resources damaged or destroyed as a result of the discharge."

13. Under Section 311(f)(4) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(f)(4), the Plaintiffs are entitled to recover damages for injuries to natural resources, including the costs of restoring or replacing natural resources damaged or destroyed.

14. KSA 65 - 164 states in pertinent part, subsection (a) "No person, company, corporation ... shall place or permit to be placed or discharge or permit to flow into any of the waters of the state any sewage... (b) For the purposes of this act "sewage" means the waste products ... or other discharges ... or other waste from manufacturing or other forms of industry."

15. KSA 65 171u provides that any person who violates the provisions of KSA 65- 171 and causes the death of, or injury to, fish, animals, vegetation or other resources of the state whether natural or structural ... shall be liable to pay the state damages in an amount equal to the sum of money necessary to restock such waters, replenish or replace such resources and to otherwise restore the stream, lake or other water resource to its condition prior to the injury.

#### FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

##### Natural Resource Damages Under the Clean Water Act

16. The allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 15 are re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.

17. Each of the Defendant's Properties is an "onshore facility" within the meaning of Section 311(f)(1) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(f)(2).

18. The Defendant and/or its predecessors is an "owner" and/or "operator" of an onshore facility within the meaning of Section 311(f)(1) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(f)(1).

19. There have been discharges of hazardous substances in harmful quantities from the Defendant's Properties into the waters of the United States and/or adjoining shorelines that have affected, damaged or destroyed natural resources belonging to, appertaining to, or under the exclusive management authority of the Plaintiffs within the meaning of Sections 311(b) and (f)(4) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1321(b) and (f)(4).

20. The Defendant has assumed or succeeded to the liabilities of its predecessors in interest that owned and/or operated Defendant's Properties from which hazardous substances were discharged.

21. The Defendant is liable to Plaintiffs for the costs or expenses incurred by Plaintiffs in the restoration or replacement of natural resources damages or destroyed as a result of the discharges of hazardous substances from the Defendant's Properties under Section 311(f)(4) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(f)(4).

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF:  
Natural Resource Damages under KSA 65-171u

22. The allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 21 are re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.

23. The predecessors of the Defendant have placed or permitted to be placed or discharged or permitted to flow sewage into the waters of the State in violation of KSA 65-164.

24. The Defendant has assumed or succeeded to the liabilities of its predecessors in interest that owned and/or operated Defendant's Properties at which the sewage was placed, and from which it was discharged or permitted to be placed or flowed into the waters of the State.

25. The discharges described above have caused the death of, or injury to, fish, animals, vegetation or other resources of the state.

26. Pursuant to KSA 65-171u the Defendant is liable to pay the state damages in an amount equal to the sum of money necessary to restock such waters, replenish or replace such resources and to otherwise restore the stream, lake or other water resource to its condition prior to the injury.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court:

(1) Enter a judgment in favor of Plaintiffs against Defendant, pursuant to Section 311(f)(4) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(f)(4), for all costs of restoring, replacing, and/or acquiring the equivalent of natural resources damaged or destroyed as a result of the release of hazardous substances from the Defendant's Properties and including the costs of assessing such damages and the diminution in value of those resources pending restoration or replacement, in an amount to be proven at trial.

(2) Enter a judgment in favor of Plaintiffs against Defendant, pursuant to KSA 65-171u for damages in an amount equal to the sum of money necessary to restock such waters, replenish or replace such resources and to otherwise restore the stream, lake or other water resource to its condition prior to the injury.

- (3) Enter a judgment in favor of Plaintiffs against Defendant for all costs of this action, including attorney's fees; and
- (4) Award Plaintiffs such other and further relief as this Court may deem appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

FOR THE UNITED STATES:

RONALD J. TENPAS  
Acting Assistant Attorney General  
Environment and Natural Resources Division  
U.S. Department of Justice

ELLEN M. MAHAN  
Deputy Section Chief  
Environmental Enforcement Section

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ELIZABETH L. LOEB  
Trial Attorney  
Environmental Enforcement Section  
United States Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, D.C. 20044-7611  
(202) 514-4180 fax  
(202) 616-8916 direct  
Elizabeth.Loeb@usdoj.gov

ERIC F. MELGREN  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

EMILY METZGER, #10750  
Assistant United States Attorney  
1200 Epic Center, 301 N. Main  
Wichita, Kansas 67202  
(316) 269-6481  
Facsimile: (269) 269-6484  
emily.metzger@usdoj.gov

OF COUNSEL:

Mary Lynn Taylor  
Attorney Advisor  
Office of the Solicitor  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Three Parkway Center, Suite 385  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15220

FOR THE STATE OF KANSAS:

RODERICK L. BREMBY

Secretary

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

SUSAN B. ANDREWS #12905

Environmental Attorney

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Curtis State Office Building

1000 SW Jackson, Ste. 560

Topeka, KS 66612-1368

(785) 296- 5334

SAndrews@kdhe.state.ks.us



**REQUEST FOR PLACE OF TRIAL**

The defendant, United States of America, requests that the above-entitled cause be placed on the docket for trial at the City of Wichita, Kansas.

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ELIZABETH L. LOEB  
Trial Attorney  
Environmental Enforcement Section  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 7611  
Ben Franklin Station  
Washington, D.C. 20044  
(202) 616-8916

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on February 13, 2008, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the ECF system which will send notification of such filing to all parties registered with the Court and have sent copies via first class mail to the following:

Cyprus Amax Minerals Co.  
c/o James Hamula, Esq.  
Gallagher & Kennedy, P.A.  
2527 E. Camelback Rd.  
Phoenix, AZ 85016

By:

ELIZABETH L. LOEB  
Trial Attorney  
Environmental Enforcement Section  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 7611  
Ben Franklin Station  
Washington, D.C. 20044  
(202) 616-8916